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Attorney Docket No.: 0492611-0315/MIT6196

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Griffith, *et al.* Examiner: Naff
Serial No.: 09/008,945 Art Unit: 1651
Filing Date: January 20, 1998
Title: TISSUE FORMATION BY INJECTING A CELL-POLYMERIC SOLUTION
THAT GELS IN VIVO

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

This Response to Office Action is filed in response to the Office Action mailed August 1, 2001, rejecting claims 25-52. The cited references are Atala, *et al.*, "Cartilage Cells as a Potential Treatment for Reflux," presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Section on Urology, San Francisco, CA, October 10-12, 1992; U.S. Patent No. 4,632,120 to Nevo, *et al.*; U.S. Patent No. 5,041,138 to Vacanti, *et al.* (Vacanti A); Vacanti, *et al.*, "Selective Cells Transplantation Using Bioabsorbable Artificial Polymers as Matrices," *Journal of Pediatric Surgery*, 23: 3-9 (1988) (Vacanti B); U.S. Patent No. 5,294,446 to Schlameus, *et al.*; U.S. Patent No. 5,266,326 to Barry, *et al.*; PCT Publication No. WO92/19195 by Dionne, *et al.*; and U.S. Patent No. 5,354,736 to Bhatnagar. The following amendments and remarks remove all grounds for rejection of the application, thereby placing it in condition for allowance.

Amendment

Please amend the claims as follows:

f/ 27. A method for introducing cells into an animal to form tissue, comprising:
forming a cell-polymeric composition by mixing dissociated cells with a solution of a biodegradable, biocompatible natural or synthetic organic polymer;